MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

12 MAY 1982

Iran-Iraq Conflict

An Iraqi military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio reaffirmed that Iraqi forces completely defeated an Iranian attack north of Khorramshahr early on 11 May and also claimed that Iraqi troops had earlier launched a successful attack in the same region. Altogether the Iranians lost 6,722 dead and 106 tanks, the communique said, while Iraq lost 214 men on 10-11 May and 48 tanks between 5-11 May. Without mentioning Iran's claim to have captured Shalamcheh, INA reported that the Shalamcheh area, which consists of two border posts, is currently to the rear of Iraqi forces and far behind the battlefronts.

A Guards Corps and Armed Forces joint communique carried by Tehran radio claimed that Iranian forces tightened their siege around Iraqi forces in the Khorramshahr region, where the enemy is reinforcing "in a desperate attempt to save himself from certain destruction." Iranian forces advanced up to 5 kilometers from Khorramshahr, it said. The communique admitted that the Iraqis had launched an attack west of Khorramshahr on the night of 10 May but said the Iranians forced the enemy to flee and destroyed eight Iraqi tanks. Five more Iraqi aircraft were shot down on 11 May, according to the communique.

Autonomy Talks

Before departing Israel for Egypt, U.S. envoy to the autonomy talks, Richard Fairbanks said he will return to Israel if he succeeds in making some progress in Cairo regarding the dispute over the venue for the Palestinian autonomy talks, IDF radio reported. Israel has thus far neither accepted nor rejected Fairbanks' proposals, the radio said. "Well-placed" Israeli sources consider that the problem of the venue for the autonomy talks is likely to be solved only when Prime Minister Menahem Begin meets with President Ronald Reagan and Secretary of State Alexander Haig in the United States next month, according to the Jerusalem POST.

Commenting on Israel's insistence that Jerusalem be a venue for the autonomy negotiations, an AL-AHRAM editorial cited by MENA said Israel wants to put obstacles in the way of the discussions. The paper added that by these "distasteful" actions, Israel supplies new fuel for those in the Arab world who believe Israel is not serious about the negotiations.

Israel

Eytan on Cease-Fire; Radio Comment -- Chief of Staff Lt Gen Refa'el Eytan said that following the latest "terrorist" operations, culminating in the recent shelling across the northern border, it is doubtful that the cease-fire still exists, Jerusalem radio reported. Eytan nevertheless assured the inhabitants of settlements along the northern border that no war of attrition in the style of July 1981 would recur.

Reporting on divisions within the Cabinet over Israeli policy toward terrorist attacks, Jerusalem television said the possibility cannot be dismissed that if there is any further escalation on the northern border, there will be no alternative to a confrontation with the "terrorists."

Golan Protest -- Thousands of Druzes opposed to accepting Israeli identity cards demonstrated in the Golan Heights village of 'Ayn Gunyah, Jerusalem radio reported.

Egypt

Mubarak-Qabus Joint Statement -- President Husni Mubarak and Omani Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id appealed to Iran and Iraq to accept a cease-fire and to seek a peaceful settlement of their existing differences, according to a joint statement by the two leaders broadcast by MENA. In the statement, which was issued at the end of the talks between the Egyptian and Omani leaders, Qabus noted the importance of Egypt's Arab role and its positive effect on the process of joint Arab action.

Egyptian-Iraqi Relations -- Egypt and Iraq have resumed direct contacts following preparatory efforts by Sultan Qabus, according to Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, AFP reported.

In a related development, MENA reported that Iraqi Airways has resumed its regular flights between Baghdad and Cairo.

'Ali Speech -- In a speech to several Peoples Assembly committees, reported by MENA, Foreign Minister 'Ali condemned Israeli excesses against the Palestinians and said the escalation of these excesses does not work toward a solution of the Palestinian problem.

Jordan

Omani Sultan Qabus arrived in Jordan at the invitation of King Husayn on a private visit to last several days, Amman radio reported.

Lebanon

Tripoli experienced a calm night following 5 days of violent clashes, Beirut radio reported on 1[illegible] May. Earlier, the radio noted that the situation had improved considerably after the implementation of a cease-fire. Following a meeting of the supreme coordination committee and the supreme security committee, former Prime Minister Rashid Karami announced the formation of a joint force to supervise the cease-fire, the radio said. According to Karami, the joint force will be formed from the Lebanese internal security forces, all the national parties, the Palestinian resistance and the Syrian deterrent forces.

Syria-Saudi Arabia

Syrian Chief of Staff Gen Hikmat ash-Shihabi paid a short visit to Saudi Arabia, where he delivered a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, SPA reported. According to Jerusalem radio, Syrian sources linked Ash-Shihabi's visit with Syrian preparations for a possible Israeli military action in Lebanon.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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HAQ WANTS AFGHAN SOLUTION BASED ON PRINCIPLES

BK111141 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 11 May 82

[Text] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that Pakistan is endeavoring for a political solution of the Afghan problem, but there can be no compromise on its principled stand as enunciated in the resolutions of the Islamic Conference, the United Nations and the Nonaligned Movement. Addressing a news conference in Quetta this morning at the conclusion of his 3-day visit, the president said that Pakistan had neither the power nor the desire to seek a military solution of the problem. He said the problem did not concern Pakistan alone. It was a global problem. The entire world is conscious of the freedom struggle being waged by the valiant Afghan people and the influx of refugees into Pakistan.

He said one out of every four Afghans had taken refuge in Pakistan. The president said that Pakistan was in touch with Iran about the initiation of dialogue to solve the Afghan problem under the aegis of the personal representative of the UN secretary general.

He said Iran, which had refused to participate in the talks at the foreign minister level, would be kept informed of the progress of the talks scheduled to be held in Geneva on the 15th of next month through a special representative or its ambassador there. Iran had agreed to this in response to Pakistan's request.

The president said that Pakistan's stand had always been to insure Iran's participation in talks on the Afghanistan problem. As for Afghanistan, they had made it clear that Pakistan did not recognize the government there and and was willing to talk only to the representative of the political party in power in that country.

Replying to a question whether the Soviet Union had made any offer of talks to Pakistan to solve the Afghan problem, the president said he was not aware of any such offer having been received in Pakistan. However, he had been in frequent contact with the Soviet ambassador in Pakistan. He had told both the present and previous ambassadors that the key to the problem lies in Moscow because the problem had come about as a result of its intervention in that country. He said one thing was quite clear: that the forthcoming talks in Geneva were being held with the blessings of the Soviet Union, which had in the past once vetoed the UN resolution in this regard.

RIAZ PIRACHA APPOINTED AMBASSADOR TO INDIA

BK120229 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 May 82

[Text] Foreign Secretary Riaz Piracha has been appointed Pakistan ambassador to India. Niaz A. Naik, who is currently Pakistan's permanent representative at the United Nations in New York, will replace Piracha.

INDUSTRY MINISTER PRAISES RELATIONS WITH IRAN

GF100812 Karachi DAWN in English 6 May 82 p 6

[Text] Islamabad, May 5 -- Federal Minister for Industries Mr Elahi Bux Soomro has said that Pakistan values relations with the brotherly neighbouring country, Iran. He was talking to the visiting Iranian Deputy Minister for Labor Mr Faridun Siamak-Nezhad who called on him here on Tuesday [4 May].

Mr Soomro said that as brotherly Muslim countries Pakistan and Iran have centuries-old relations and expressed the hope that these ties will be further expanded in the days to come.

He said, Pakistan is appreciative of the problems of the people of Iran who had to start from scratch after the revolution.

Recalling the visit to Pakistan of Iranian minister for industries on the eve of the conference of ministers of industries of Islamic countries, Mr Soomro said Iran made a positive contribution toward the fulfillment of the objective of the conference.

The Iranian deputy minister for labour paid rich tributes to President Mohammad Ziaul Haq for the efforts being made in Pakistan for ushering in Islamic order. He lauded the steps being taken for the Islamisation of the society in Pakistan.

Mr Faridun said that his country desires to have close and friendly relations with all the Muslim countries and Pakistan, in particular. He said, the relations between the two countries were close and expressed the hope that these will expand with the passage of time.

The Iranian deputy minister for labour said that after an initial period of isolation after the revolution, his country has now started participating in all international conferences and forums. -- APP.

OIL PRODUCTION TO INCREASE TO 16,500 BARRELS

GF111208 Karachi DAWN in English 8 May 82 p 4

[Text] Muzaffargarh, May 7 -- Pakistan will be producing about 16,500 barrels of crude oil per day by June 1982, an official of petroleum and natural resources told this correspondent here the other day.

He said that a target of 14,500 barrels of crude per-day had been fixed, but by the grace of almighty Allah it was expected to reach 16,500 barrels a day. The present production was 13,000 barrels per day, he added.

To a question, he said that Pakistan was meeting nearly 12 per cent of its total oil requirements from her own resources. Pakistan's total oil requirement was about one lakh barrel per day and the capacity to meet oil need from its own resources was increasing every year on an average by six per cent, he added.

He said that enormous production of gas at various fields was meeting 10 per cent of country's energy requirements from its own resources. Production of natural gas alone was preventing further import of one lakh barrels of crude per day, and thus the country was saving Rs. 1200 crore in foreign exchange per day. He concluded. -- PPI.

BRIEFS

SAUDI FUEL DONATION -- The Saudi Arabian Government has sent 10,000 tons of kerosene oil for the domestic needs of Afghan refugees. Seven tankers have been arranged to deliver the oil. The oil and a stove for each family will be given in order to preserve the forests which have been damaged by haphazard chopping for fuel. [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 May 82 GF]

RICE EXPORTS -- Pakistan's Rice Export Corporation will export 26,000 tons of basmati [long grain] rice worth $18.2 million to Abu Dhabi. This was revealed by the corporation's chairman in Karachi during an interview with a Radio Pakistan representative. [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 May 82 GF]

BALUCHISTAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROJECTS -- Minister of Communications Mohyuddin Baluch announced at a press conference in Quetta today that more than 2,000 telephone lines will be installed in the province and 42 small telephone lines will be installed in the province and 42 small telephone exchanges will be set up with 600 lines each by the end of the current fiscal year. Public call offices will also be set up in the rural areas. About 126 new post offices will go into operation by the end of the year. [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 May 82 GF]

SEIGE ON KHORRAMSHAHR TIGHTENS; OTHER BATTLES

Joint Communique No 19

LD111842 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 May 82

[Joint communique No 19 of the Central Headquarters of the Revolution Guards Corps and the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Our self-sacrificing sons are continuing the third phase of the Jerusalem Operation [bayt al-moqaddas] and are continuing their battle against the aggressive enemy.

In severe clashes with the enemy on the western and northwestern Khorramshahr axes, our heroic combatants advanced to specified targets and inflicted losses and casualties on the enemy and captured a number of the Saddamists. As of this evening, 253 of the deceived have been evacuated from the front.

The enemy knows he is dying and being annihilated. He is gathering and strengthening his forces on these axes in a desperate attempt to save himself from certain destruction. The strong combatants of Islam, by relying on the Almighty and with complete coordination, are tightening the siege on enemy forces in the Khorramshahr region.

Last night the enemy launched an offensive west of Khorramshahr. The forces of Islam resisted this offensive and destroyed eight tanks, eight personnel carriers and several vehicles of the enemy. The hopeless enemy was forced to flee from the battlefield.

Today more of those deceived by the Iraqi Army, who realized the truth of the Islamic forces, joined the army of Islam. An officer and 33 of his soldiers surrendered on one of the battle axes and joined Islam's front. They were warmly welcomed by our brothers.

During today's operations the heroes of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran together with the vigilant combatants of the air defense units shot down five intruding enemy aircraft. Thirty enemy aircraft have been downed since the beginning of the Jerusalem Operation [bayt al-moqaddas].

The combatants of the army of Islam have advanced up to 5 kilometers from the heroic city of Khorramshahr. The operations are still continuing to consolidate positions and reach specified targets.

With hope for the Islamic combatants' final victory.

[Signed] The Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Joint Staff Communique

LD111804 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 May 82

[Unnumbered communique of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The results of the operations and self-sacrifices of the combatants of the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the situation on the battlefronts of the imposed war to the west and south of the country are brought to the attention of our dear compatriots.

Exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire continued on the western fronts during the past 24 hours. The results of the exchange of fire on these fronts are as follows:

Enemy fire was silenced on the Salehabad and (Meymak) fronts. Twelve Saddamist troops were killed and several of their assembly points were destroyed. On 9 May combatants of the ground forces launched a series of surprise and strike [zarbati] operations against the Saddamist mercenaries and destroyed three observation posts and three emplacements for machine-guns and missile launchers. Several of the enemy troops were also killed.

Several positions and assembly points of the Iraqi forces were destroyed on the Sumar front and 20 Saddamists were killed.

Intense artillery fire of the ground forces pounded enemy positions on the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab front and destroyed several of their assembly points and observation posts. Enemy installations and communication centers were also severely damaged and a number of enemy troops were either killed or wounded.

The brave tribesmen of the irregular forces continue their missions in sectors to the west under their protection. These warriors control all enemy movements and neutralize enemy activities by returning their fire.

Thanks to the fire of the combatants of Islam on the Dezh Shapur front on positions of the Saddamists, one cannon was destroyed and its crew was killed in the (Valiaveh) sector. Our combatants also destroyed several bunkers and two observation posts of the Saddamists in the (Hargineh) and Panjwin sectors and killed a number of the Ba'thist mercenaries. The enemy was prevented from carrying out any movements.

Sporadic exchange of fire continued on the Paveh fronts. The mortar fire of our brave gendarmerie forces on the Emam front killed several Iraqi troops and destroyed six slit trenches, six foxholes and one ammunition tent of the Saddamists.

The brave warriors of the gendarmerie on the Abadan front opened fire on enemy positions on the other side of the Arvand Rud preventing movements of the Saddamist troops and destroyed several ammunition depots and killed several of their personnel. Military installations in Fao were also damaged.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

TAVAKOLI: U.S., AGENTS TRYING TO MAINTAIN SADDAM

LD111224 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 May 82

[Excerpts] The Central News Unit reports that government spokesman Mr Tavakoli, minister of labor and social affairs, has taken part in a press conference and answered questions on various issues put to him by domestic correspondents.

Commenting on the foreign policy of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran toward countries of the region and the security of the Persian Gulf, Mr Tavakoli said the Persian Gulf and its security is separate from other issues. We want to establish security in this region, but we believe it should not be secured by the superpowers but by the people of the region, and it is in the interests of the countries of the region to realize what is good for them and to refrain from taking the path which will bring them to an end like that of the shah, the late As-Sadat and Saddam, who will soon be annihilated. The governments of the region should return to their nations and their religion, since their internal independence and honor depends on this. Naturally if any one chooses to follow criminals like Husni Mubarak, King Husayn, Qabus and King Hassan of Morocco, he chooses a fate like that of Saddam and will soon suffer the same hardship that Saddam is suffering now. I advise all the countries of the region to return to Islam and to nations which love Islam and to be sure that relying on God and God's people will bring them more honor than relying on superpowers.

The government spokesman referred to America's next moves to maintain Saddam's disintegrating regime and said that, bearing in mind the internal currents in Iraq, the recent disgraceful defeats they have suffered and the stands adopted by Iraq, it is quite clear that the Iraqi regime has become a part of the U.S. sphere of influence. It would be difficult therefore to keep Saddam among the Arab nation. Saddam's fall would frustrate all the American dreams for the region, since none of its mercenaries would agree to suffer the same blow that Saddam has received from the combatants of Islam. He added that nevertheless everything possible will be done to keep Saddam. All the U.S. agents in the region have already begun their moves.

PRIME MINISTER: IRAQI LEADER 'ABOUT TO DIE'

LD111134 Tehran IRNA in English 0914 GMT 11 May 82

[Text] Tehran, 11 May (IRNA) -- Prime Minister Musavi yesterday said that Saddam was about to die and that he could not be saved by the U.S. lackey's propaganda. The prime minister, talking in an interview with the daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, said that regional countries had to arrive at the conclusion that peace was not accessible while Saddam existed.

Speaking on the venue of the Non-Aligned Movement conference in Baghdad, the prime minister announced it would spell out the annihilation of the Non-Aligned Movement's goals in the long-run.

He continued that Iran's condition for ending the Iraqi imposed war had not changed in the least and that Iran was at present achieving one of those conditions, i.e. the return to previous geographical norms. The prime minister, referring to Iraq's military tactics and its policy of killing time, said Iran would not be harmed twice in the same fashion, and would do anything it deemed suitable to defend itself.

Speaking on the West's propaganda campaign against Iran, the prime minister noted that contrary to what was held, Iran was not after war mongering in the Persian Gulf, and that their efforts to portray Iran as such were only aimed to make Persian Gulf countries unduly petrified of Iran. He then stated that this propaganda was mostly carried out by U.S. lackeys in the region and that they could not save Saddam from his hapless position.

Commenting on the Iraqi regime's deeds, the prime minister said they were similar to those of an insane person who had lost his senses and merely attacked anything he saw in his way. He cited attacks on Syria, and the Algerian aircraft carrying the Algerian foreign minister, Ben Yahia, as examples of Saddam's dementia.

When asked about Iran's friends, the prime minister said that the less dependent countries were, the more they backed Iran, its Islamic revolution. He went on to say that regional countries were gradually appreciating realities and hence coming in line with the Islamic revolution of Iran.

He then reaffirmed once again that Iran's struggle was only for peace, and that Saddam's mere existence was the impediment to peace and might set the region afire. He then proclaimed that Saddam at first had said he respected the Algiers accord's land borders, but he wanted to negotiate on the Arvand Rud borders with Iran, however he later attacked the foreign minister's plane of the mediating country, i.e. Algeria and martyred its passengers, hence violating his ballyhooed peace stances.

In conclusion, he said Iraq's reestablishment of ties with the Egyptian regime attested to Mubarak's efforts for saving himself and another U.S. lackey in the region to keep a lid on the escalating awakening of the Egyptian people, manifested in the uprising of the martyred Khaled al-Istanbul.

MOJAHEDIN DENY HAND IN SYRIAN EMBASSY EXPLOSION

GF111710 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 11 May 82

[Text] The Free Voice of Iran correspondent reports from Tehran: Khomeyni's remarks addressed to the information unit of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps yesterday are being interpreted as significant in political circles. In these utterances, which were repeatedly broadcast by Khomeyni's propaganda machinery, Khomeyni exhorted the revolution guards to refrain from disputes and to end animosity and antagonism among various revolution guard groups. Khomeyni said in his speech: In Iran and abroad, the sharp edge of attack is aimed at the revolution guards, and if the present differences among the guards continue, this corps will be destroyed.

The Mojahedin-e Khalq organization has attributed the explosion outside the Syrian Embassy to these very differences that have been created among the administrators of the regime and the opposition of the leaders of the revolution guards. A communique issued in this connection by the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization said: The statement by 'Ali Akbar Velayati regarding the participation of members of the Mojahedin-e Khalq in the explosion in the Syrian Embassy in Tehran should be categorically denied. The Mojahedin believe in diplomatic immunity. The aim of Khomeyni's government in attributing this incident to the Mojahedin is to instigate Syrian elements to attack Mojahedin installations outside the country, particularly in Paris.

According to the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization, the conflicting trends within the regime, especially within the revolution guards, are the cause of events such as the crash of the airplane carrying the Algerian foreign minister and the explosion of a bomb near the Syrian Embassy. The Mojahedin-e Khalq had no hand in the bomb explosion near the Syrian Embassy in Tehran, it said.

PDRY ENVOY PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO KHAMENE'I

LD081130 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 May 82

[Excerpts] The Central News Unit reports Qader Salih al-Hamzah, the first ambassador of the PDRY to Iran, met with Sayyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the president, and submitted his credentials. At this meeting the Yemen ambassador referred to the beneficial outcome of meetings between the minister of foreign affairs and the economic and technical delegation from his country and expressed hope that such visits will help strengthen relations between the two countries.

In reply, Khamene'i confirmed the need to expand relations between the two countries which was stressed by the Yemen ambassador. He expressed grief over the damage suffered in that country because of recent floods.

AFGHAN MUSLIMS BREAK SOVIET SIEGE OF HERAT

LD111730 Tehran IRNA in English 1532 GMT 11 May 82

[Text] 11 May (IRNA) -- Afghan Muslim mujahideen recently broke the Soviet 4-day seige of Herat and destroyed 21 armoured tanks and killed some 500 Soviet forces in this clash. Soviet forces bombed some of the houses of some villages of Enjil District in Herat Province during the past 3 days. 15 government forces with their guns joined Muslim mujahideen around the Badghisat Province.

MAJLIS PASSES FOREIGN TRADE NATIONALIZATION BILL

LD111226 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 May 82

[Report by Tehran radio correspondent on Majlis 11 May open session]

[Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The open session of the Majlis began this morning under speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani with some verses from the holy Koran. The meeting dealt with the remaining clauses of a bill on the nationalization of foreign trade. Suggestions made by some MP's were discussed with regard to each clause. In this connection Commerce Minister Habibollah Asgar-Owladi-Mosalman explained the bill. Afterwards, with the passage of the remaining five clauses of the bill, the bill on the nationalization of foreign trade was unanimously passed.

NESTS OF 'HYPOCRITES' DISCOVERED IN MASHHAD

GF091330 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 25 Apr 82 p 4

[Text] Mashhad -- According to a report by the Public Relations Office of the Revolution Guards of Zone 4 of Khorasan last Thursday [22 April], our daring brother Islamic Revolution Guards of Mashhad succeeded in discovering a nest of the hypocrites' minigroup in an armed conflict.

In this clash, which took place between the brother guards and some persons posted outside the team nest, one of the high-ranking pawns of the hypocrites' organization was killed and three were arrested. One G-3, one Colt and some cartridges, cyanide pills, forged identification cards and confidential documents of the organization were seized.

Last week with the help of the 36-million strong intelligence and some penitent persons, two team nests of the defunct hypocrites' organization were unearthed in Asadi and Taleqani Avenues in Mashhad from which nine U.S. lackeys were seized and arrested and six Colts, one G-3, some explosives, one wireless set, some cyanide pills and secret documents pertaining to the organization were discovered.